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NSC review completed - unredacted segments may be  
declassified

7 January 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: The Director

FROM

: Samuel M. Hoskinson

*Sam*

SUBJECT

: Middle East WSAG Meeting - 10 January

1. The NSC Staff is billing the Middle East WSAG meeting as essentially an effort to focus Defense, CIA and State on anticipated problems in the area during the next six to nine months. The tentative agenda -- which Kissinger may or may not follow -- is as follows:

- a. Review of the current diplomatic and military situation in the Middle East.
- b. Projections of probable military, economic and political developments over the next six to nine months.
- c. Possible scenarios for a new war in the Middle East.
- d. Diplomatic, military and economic measures the US might take to alter the situation.

2. I have provided Bob Oakley -- the NSC Senior Staff Member working on the Middle East -- with an outline of major Intelligence Community activities relating to the WSAG meeting agenda. This includes a special paper produced by OCI and sent to all the WSAG members as background for the meeting. The purpose is to give Kissinger an idea about what the Intelligence Community is doing so that the end product of our efforts and those of both State and Defense are complementary and of maximum utility.

3. There is still some uncertainty whether this will be a "principals only" meeting or if one aide will also be allowed to attend. If aides are allowed, I will accompany you. In any event, you may wish to schedule a short prep session with [redacted] and me after you have reviewed the attached materials. The other principals will all have had access to the same papers.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Office of the Director

Copy No. 5

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7 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert Oakley  
Senior Staff Member, NSC

FROM : Samuel M. Hoskinson *Sam*  
National Intelligence Officer  
for the Middle East

SUBJECT : Middle East WSAG Meeting - 10 January

This memorandum outlines the status of major Intelligence Community activities related to the tentative agenda for the WSAG meeting scheduled for 10 January.

Analytical

Listed below under each of the analytical questions you posed is a description of the work that has been completed, is in process, or is planned in the near future. The studies which have been completed are enclosed.

1. Review of the current situation and possible future trends in the Middle East over the next six to nine months, including the prospects for renewed hostilities.

-- In preparation for the WSAG meeting a special interagency memorandum on this subject has been drafted by CIA's Office of Current Intelligence and reviewed by State/INR (Tab A).

-- CIA's Office of Political Research is conducting an experimental research project with Bayesian analytical techniques concerning the prospects for the outbreak of hostilities in the next 30 to 90 days. This project will be expanded to include analysts from both CIA and DIA when the experimental phase is completed. A copy of the most recent report on this project is at Tab B.

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-- In addition to normal current intelligence reporting a special effort is being made to publish more analytical articles in the National Intelligence Daily (NID) on specific aspects of the war-peace equation. Recent examples have included an analytical article on the Syrian attitude toward the peace settlement process, and feature stories on Israeli, Egyptian, and Syrian military activities in the disengagement areas.

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-- A study assessing the current state of Egyptian-Soviet relations and possible future near-term developments is being drafted by CIA's Office of Political Research and should be completed by the end of the month.

-- The Director of Central Intelligence will, as the situation warrants, send special Alert Memoranda to the WSAG members calling their attention to and analyzing developing situations which could have an important negative impact on US interests. The object of these memoranda will be to identify for the highest level decision makers potential serious new problem areas as soon as possible.

2. Summary of possible scenarios for the resumption and outcome of another Arab-Israeli war including the possibility and nature of Soviet intervention.

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-- An NIE is being drafted concerning Soviet military options in the event of renewed Arab-Israeli hostilities and should be completed in early February. It will focus sharply on the intervention question and will include sections on how the Soviets now view their stakes in the area, on the courses of renewed warfare which might lead them to consider intervention, on their capabilities for intervening in various ways, and on their view of the possible consequences.

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4. Probability of an oil embargo and its impact.

-- Research is underway on an interagency study concerning the oil price, production, and export policies of the OAPEC countries and Iran in the event of Arab-Israeli hostilities in 1975 and the economic consequences of these policies for the US, Western Europe, and Japan. Attention will also be given to investment portfolio actions that could have an adverse impact on Western interests. This study will be completed by the end of January.

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